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Reminder: Nexus 5, Nexus 7 (2013) Won't Receive Nougat Update

NEXT STORY

US Unlocked Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge Finally Get First Updates

by   Kellex   on Aug 22, 2016   @droid_life

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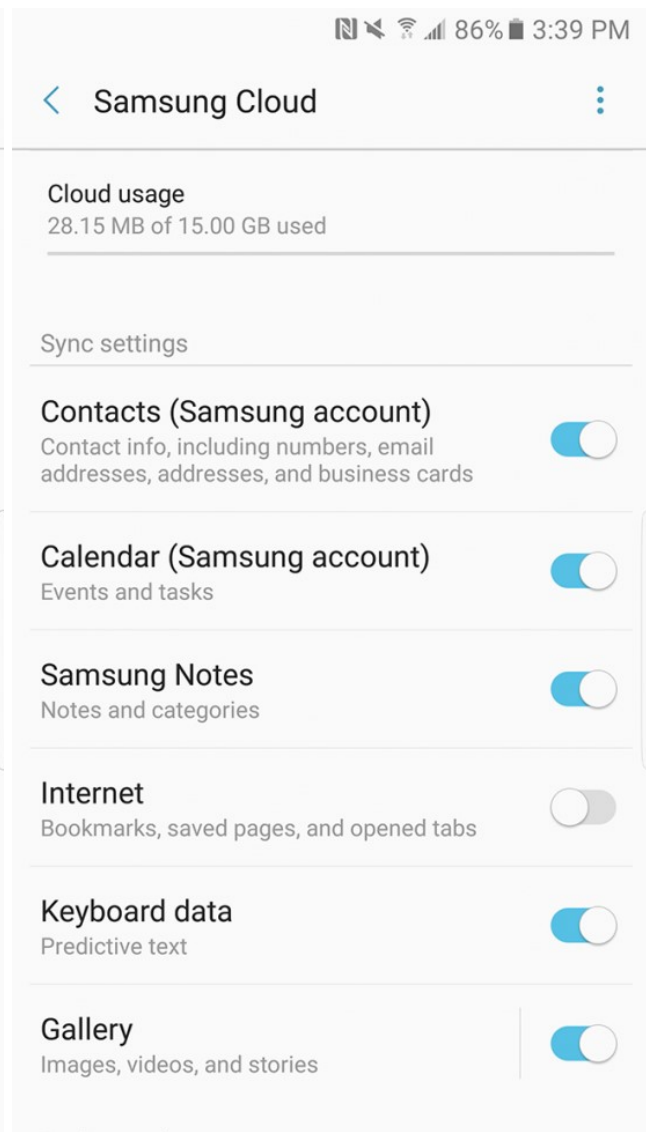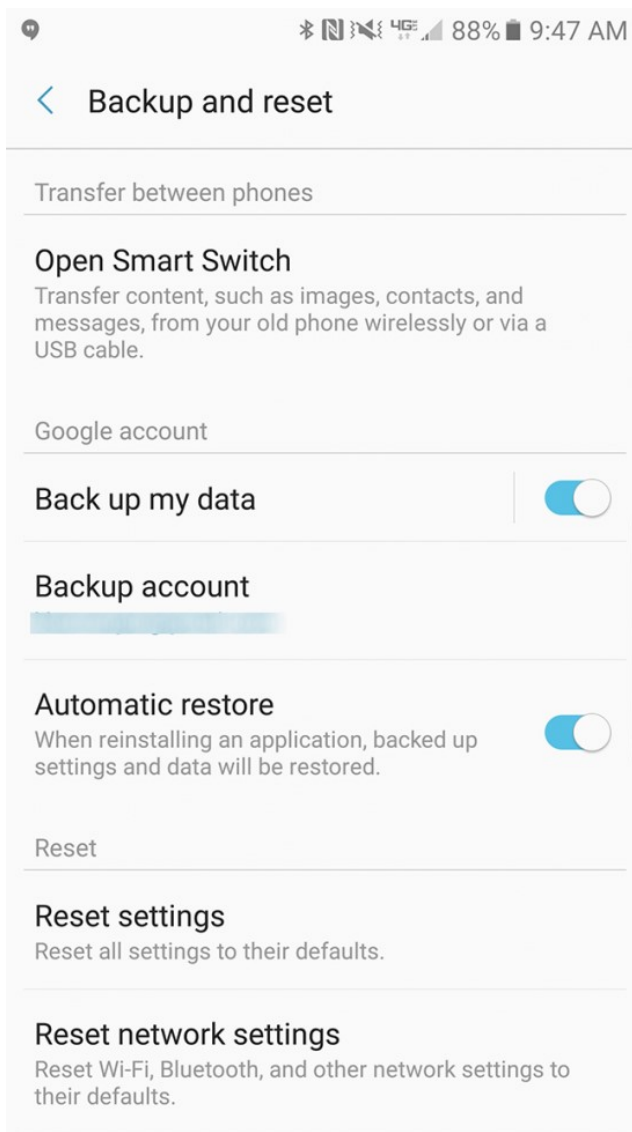# Verizon's Galaxy Note 7 Another Example of Carriers Interfering for No Good Reason

Before I signed-off for the weekend, I took part in a bit of a tweetstorm about the Samsung **Galaxy Note 7** from Verizon, as it just-so-happened to arrive on my doorstep during the DL Show. The tweetstorm's focus, in case you missed it, was about all of the unnecessary changes that Verizon had made to the phone that immediately pissed me off as I went about setting the phone up. I'm not talking about bloatware (though that is a part of it) as much as I'm talking about UI changes and feature removals for no good reason. Well, unless that reason is for Verizon to push an agenda or package of services I want absolutely no part of, then I get it.
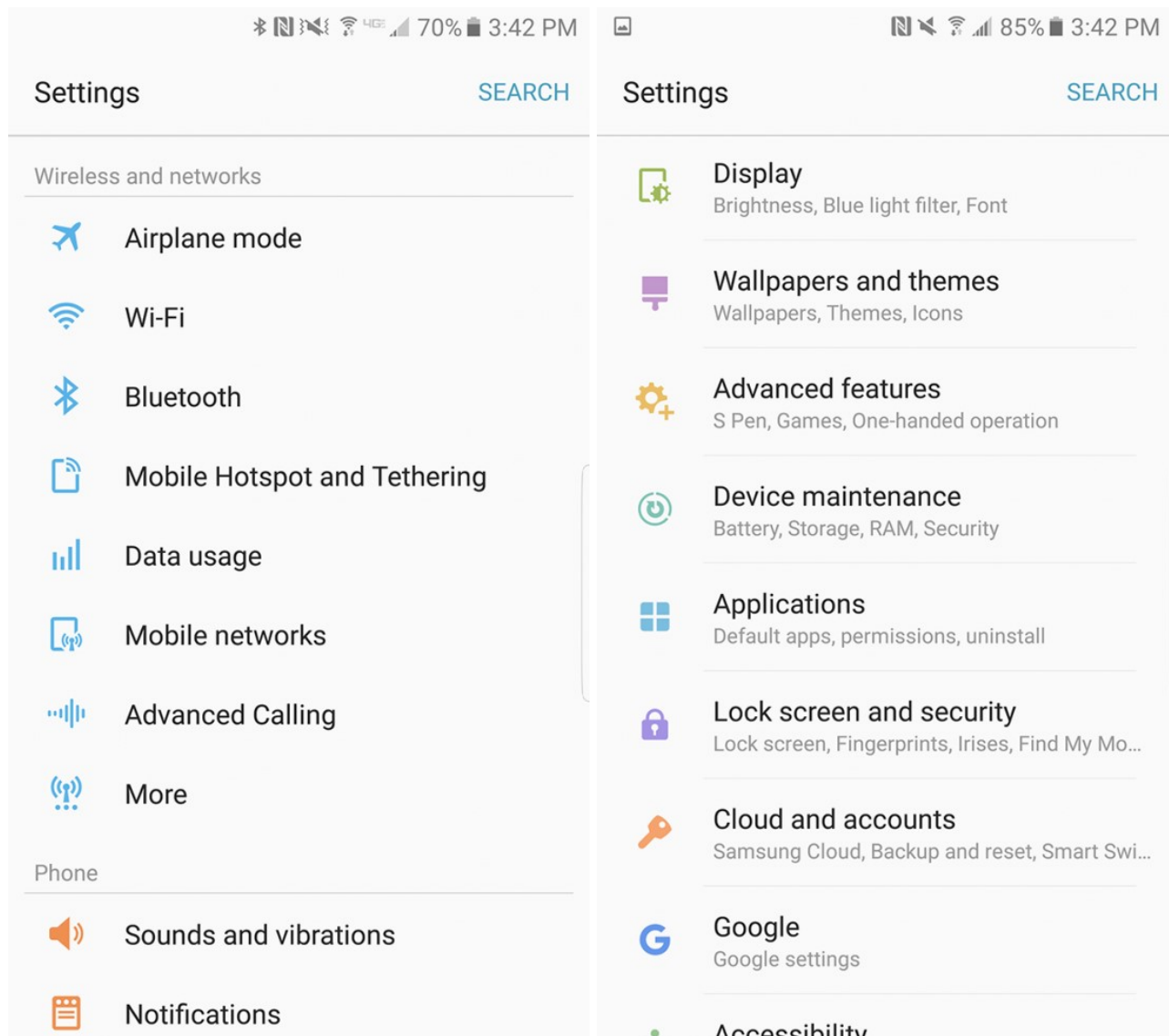
Now, I don't mean to throw a fit just for the sake of throwing a fit on a Monday where we were killing time in hopes that we may see the launch of Android Nougat to the stable channel (which happened), it's just that in 2016, I don't see why what I had to deal with on Friday is still happening. Samsung, the biggest smartphone seller in the world is essentially still being told how to setup and tweak a phone by Verizon. How is that still a thing? How is Samsung not just selling the phone they made, setup the way they want it setup, everywhere across the globe?

For example, the Verizon Galaxy Note 7 doesn't include Samsung Cloud at all. What is Samsung Cloud? Oh, just Samsung's new cloud backup service introduced with the Note 7 that offers a **free 15GB of cloud space** to store contacts, calendar info, Samsung Notes, Internet (bookmarks, saved pages, etc.), keyboard data, and a gallery backup for photos, videos, and stories. If you are a Samsung lifer, this Cloud service will certainly come in handy as you jump from one Samsung phone to the next or if you ever need to factory reset the one you currently have.

Instead, Verizon has replaced this new service with their own Verizon Cloud that **only offers 5GB of storage for free**. It's also a third party app and not baked into the system like Samsung Cloud is. As you can see below, there is no section for Samsung Cloud in the backup and reset area of the phone on Verizon. Since Samsung Cloud isn't a 3rd party app at this time, I just simply cannot use it because Verizon decided they didn't want me to and Samsung accepted that idea.
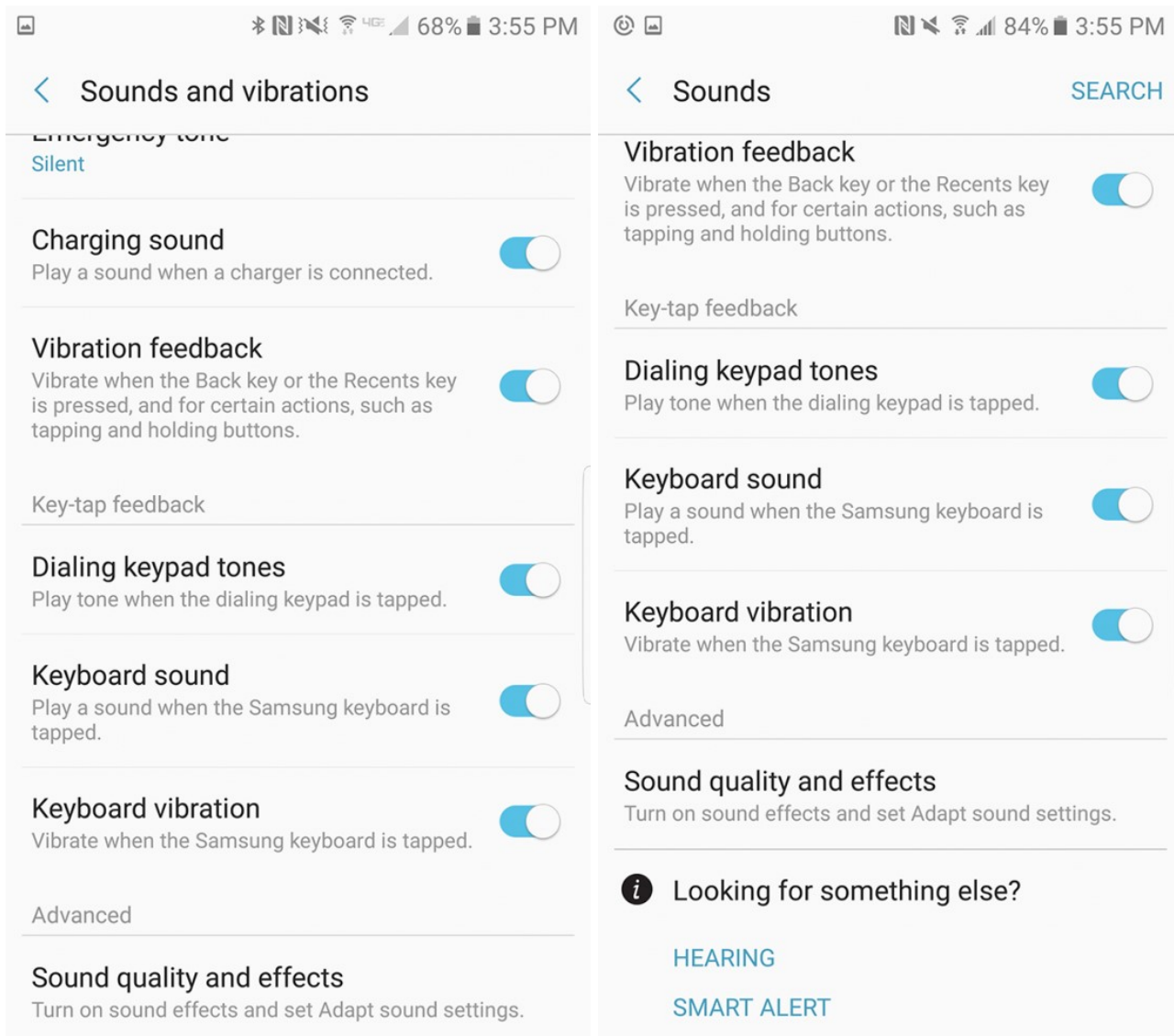
That's not all, though. **Verizon also killed off the brand new Settings menu** on the Note 7 for the old style menu that is a mile long and mimics that of Google's menu layout, in a way. I could see Verizon arguing that they want consistency and thought that their customers might be thrown off by the new layout, but that's a pretty tired excuse. Give your customers some credit here. Plus, Samsung's new settings menu is necessary because Samsung phones typically have 8,000 different settings and this new setup bundles it all into 14 categories, while Verizon's old UI lists out over 30.

Verizon Note 7 vs. T-Mobile Note 7

I should point out that **Verizon seems to have killed off a new settings suggestions area** at the bottom of a settings category, as well. This area is useful should you have entered a settings category to find something and come up empty. At the very least, it could help re-direct you to the proper place with a suggestion or hint. Verizon hasn't replaced this with an option, they just decided to not include it. Why?
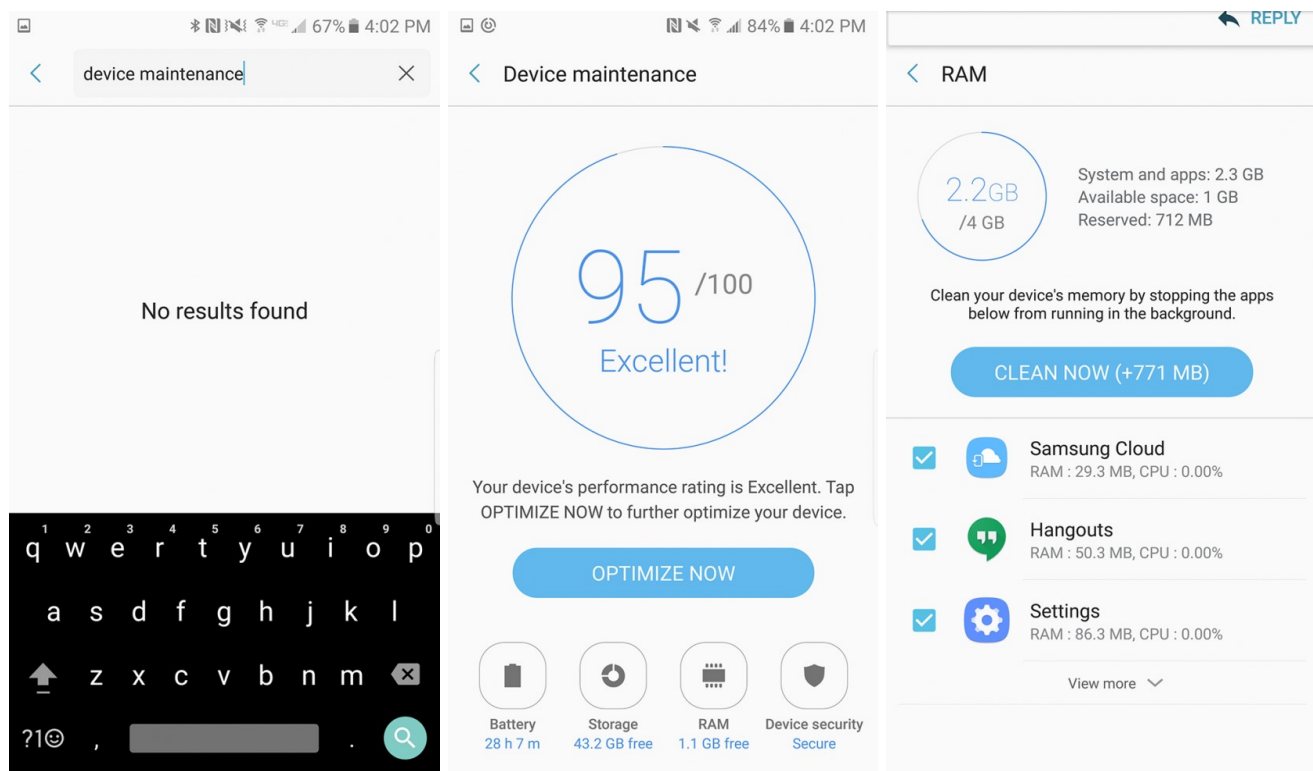
Verizon Note 7 vs. T-Mobile Note 7

Outside of some of those UI changes, Verizon once again has made it clear that they want you using Android Pay instead of Samsung Pay. I say that because the Note 7 from Big Red, even as a Samsung device that features MST and all of the technology needed to support Samsung Pay, **doesn't include Samsung Pay out of the box**. Nope, you have to go find it on Google Play and then install it. Otherwise, Android Pay is pre-loaded as the default payment system (I wonder why?). While I'm fine with Android Pay, it's baffling to me that Samsung, who has been pushing hard to get its own mobile payment system in the hands of as many people as possible, would simply say, "Sure, you can keep Samsung Pay off your variant! Cheers, bros!"

And remember, when Samsung Pay launched last year, Verizon kept it from us all as long as they could, offering up a garbage excuse about them "evaluating" it longer than anyone else on the planet needed to. To see it not included out of the box here isn't surprising in the

sense that this is how Verizon works, it's just surprising that Samsung still lacks power to go to bat for their own features.
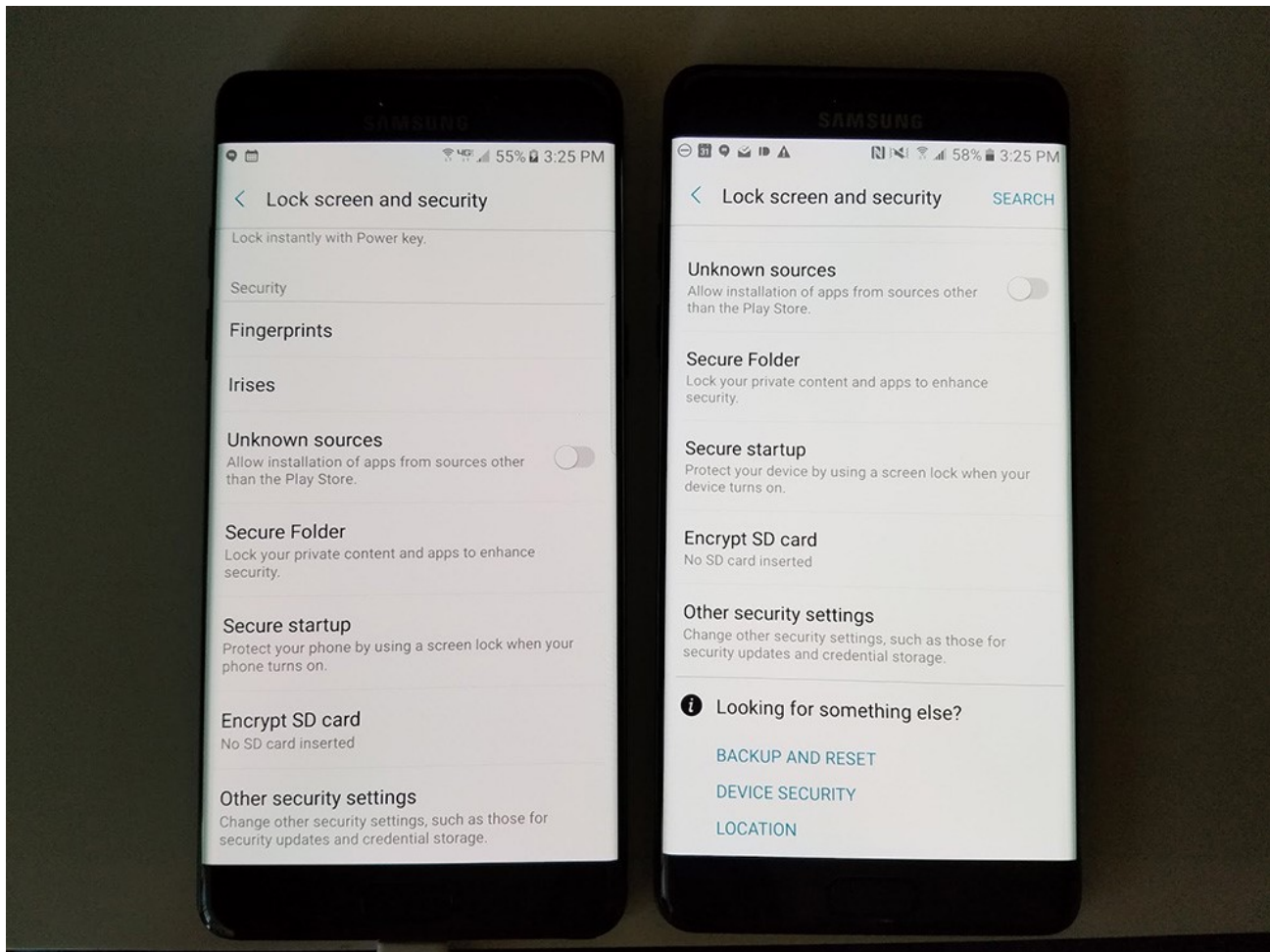

Verizon Note 7 (far left) vs. T-Mobile Note 7

Finally, in terms of missing features, Verizon has also cleared out a new section on the Note 7 called "Device Maintenance." This new feature may be a bit gimmicky in that it wants to optimize your phone for you, I just don't see why this wouldn't be useful to the customers of Verizon. After all, I can only imagine they killed off the new settings menu as to not confuse users of this phone, so why not give them a somewhat gimmicky automated clean-up feature?

On a related note, there is no way to view RAM usage on the Verizon Note 7. After searching through settings and checking in every corner of the phone, I've come up completely empty. So not only did Big Red kill off the full device maintenance suite, they **won't even let you check on RAM usage**, which is a system-level feature on Android at this point.

Of course, the **bloatware is as excessive** as you would imagine it to be, which means you get both Verizon services you won't ever use and a bunch of placeholders for children's games that are probably nothing more than a trick to get your kids to install and pay for items.

The last item I'll point out here is the fact that between the two Note 7 devices I have in-house at the moment, it's pretty obvious to me that the Verizon version's display is either tuned differently to a much warmer color profile or there are some quality issues here. It's tough to say which is the case since I only have two devices to compare, but there isn't a thing I can do about it because Samsung doesn't include a way to manually tweak the color profile.

Verizon Note 7 vs. T-Mobile Note 7

I just don't get why this is still happening. Apple doesn't let it happen. Even Google seems to be stopping Verizon from doing this on Nexus devices that it sells, outside of a My Verizon app here and there. But with Samsung phones, it certainly seems like Verizon is dictating features that are included, how the UI is presented, and which services need to be left out to push Verizon's own sub-par options.

Samsung, if you are listening, it's time to flex a bit of muscle. I get that you probably have a good relationship with Verizon and listen to their advice about what should be offered to their customers, but it's OK to tell them "No." You can say, "We appreciate the thoughts, but this is

our phone, our vision, and you are going to sell it how we made it." Trust me, Verizon isn't going to not carry the next Galaxy.

PREVIOUS STORY
Reminder: Nexus 5, Nexus 7 (2013)
Won't Receive Nougat Update

NEXT STORY
US Unlocked Galaxy S7 and S7
Edge Finally Get First Updates

- *Jay Mac*

  apparently another item that wasn't mentioned in the article that Verizon deleted is the "Galaxy Apps" icon, to directly access that feature. I have found a long way around that by going into the Samsung Gear app and using that pass-thru, but it's a hassle. I asked Verizon how I can get it back, and they said, "you can't…" at least not until it's re-pushed. I'm not sure how that would happen. Would the Galaxy app and all the other things they "stole" be put back by Verizon via some kind of system update, or is it something Samsung has to re-send via some kind of download??

- *Gene*

  How does AT&T Note 7 compare with Verizon Note 7 in this regard?

- *Gene*

  How does AT&T Note 7 compare with Verizon Note 7 in this regard?

- *Phablist*

  Exactly why I switched from VZ to TMo. Couldn't stand their phones, always unlocked them and installed custom roms.

- *Kees79*

  This is HORRIBLE. What's REALLY crazy is that Samsung's settings were

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Find out which iPad model you have and make sure that it works with an Apple SIM.

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Your Wi-Fi + Cellular model iPad Pro (9.7-inch) has an embedded Apple SIM that's built into the iPad.* There's also a nano-SIM tray, which you can use with a nano-SIM card from any carrier or an existing Apple SIM card with one or more plans already installed on it.

If you insert an unused Apple SIM in your Wi-Fi + Cellular model iPad Pro (9.7-inch), that SIM won't be used. All new plans will be added to the embedded Apple SIM. If you insert an unused SIM card into this iPad, you'll get a message saying that the SIM card isn't compatible and recommending that you use the embedded Apple SIM.

Apple SIM card

Wi-Fi + Cellular models of iPad Pro (12.9-inch), iPad Air 2, and iPad mini 3 and later might come with either an Apple SIM card or a carrier SIM card in the SIM card tray.

If your iPad didn't come with an Apple SIM card, you can buy an Apple SIM kit at an Apple Retail Store in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or Turkey.

Set up a cellular data plan

When you're in a country with carriers that support Apple SIM, you can set up and manage a cellular data plan right from your iPad. Go to Settings > Cellular Data > Set Up Cellular Data and you'll see a list of available carriers.

Learn more about embedded Apple SIM in the iPad Pro (9.7-inch)

The Wi-Fi + Cellular model iPad Pro (9.7-inch) has both an embedded Apple SIM and a nano-SIM tray. This helps you stay connected with a cellular data plan when you're away from a Wi-Fi hotspot. If you buy your iPad

Pro from a carrier store, you might be limited to the carrier's cellular data network. Here's more information, depending on where you bought your iPad Pro:

- United States:

  - Verizon (Verizon retail locations): The embedded Apple SIM isn't enabled. You can use a nano-SIM card from another carrier in the nano-SIM tray.
  - AT&T (AT&T retail locations): The embedded Apple SIM is locked to AT&T. You can use a nano-SIM card from another carrier in the nano-SIM tray. Contact AT&T for details of their Carrier Reveal program to enable Apple SIM for other carriers.

- China: Apple SIM isn't available in China. You can use a nano-SIM card from any carrier in the SIM tray. You can buy an Apple SIM kit to use in countries that support Apple SIM. These kits are available at Apple Retail Stores in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.
- Japan:

  - AU, DoCoMo, Softbank (purchased in a carrier retail location): The embedded Apple SIM and nano-SIM tray are locked to the carrier that sold you your iPad. Outside Japan, you can use the embedded Apple SIM or a nano-SIM card in the SIM tray to set up a cellular data plan with a different carrier.
  - KDDI (KDDI retail locations): The embedded Apple SIM is locked to KDDI in Japan. The nano-SIM tray is locked to the carrier that sold you your iPad. Outside Japan, you can use the embedded Apple SIM or a nano-SIM card in the SIM tray to set up a cellular data plan with a different carrier.

- United Kingdom: EE (EE retail locations): The embedded Apple SIM is locked to EE in the UK. Outside the UK, you can use the embedded Apple SIM to set up a cellular data plan with a different carrier. The nano-SIM tray is unlocked.
- Germany: DT (DT retail locations): The embedded Apple SIM is locked to DT in Germany. Outside Germany, you can use the embedded Apple SIM to set up a cellular data plan with a different carrier. The nano-SIM tray is unlocked.

*Except in China.

Last Modified: Jun 12, 2016

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Verizon Offered to Install Marketers' Apps Directly on Subscribers' Phones

Unique Program Guaranteed Downloads, Agency Execs Say

By Garett Sloane. Published on August 16, 2016.   Reprints

Verizon has offered to install marketers' brands directly on new Android subscribers' phones, according to agency executives. Credit: Courtesy Verizon

Forget bloatware. Brandware may be the next extraneous app software coming to Verizon customers' smartphones.

The wireless carrier has offered to install big brands' apps on its subscribers' home screens, potentially delivering millions of downloads, according to agency executives who have considered making such deals for their clients. But that reach would come at a cost: Verizon was seeking between $1 and $2 for each device affected, executives said.

Verizon started courting advertisers with app installations late

last year, pitching retail and finance brands among others, agency executives said.

It has only offered the installations on Android phones, because Google's software is open for carriers to customize. Apple controls its platform more tightly.

The proposed deals with brands ensure that their apps download to only new devices when consumers activate the phones and their software for the first time.

Verizon has 75 million smartphone post-paid subscribers and activates about 10 million new phones a quarter. Android phones command more than 50% of the U.S. market, according to ComScore.

It's unclear whether Verizon sold any guaranteed app installations.

The company declined to comment.

Verizon's offering seems to be unique among telcos, agency executives said. The upside is that brands' apps, an essential component for any mobile strategy, would get a fast, substantial spike in downloads. It is also priced rather competitively to app-install campaigns on Facebook or Google, which can easily top $5 depending on the particulars.

There is no guarantee, however, that Verizon subscribers open the apps they find pre-installed on their phones.

"If a user is not interested, they just delete it without activating, but you're still billed for it as a brand," said one agency executive, who ultimately advised a brand not to buy the app-installs.

Another downside to Verizon's app offering is that it doesn't offer any targeting, yet. So, a brand, for instance, couldn't focus on buying pre-installed apps on phones of known customers, the executive said.

Then again, sometimes the most important metric is simple downloads. Buying them this way could make sense for a marketer seeking sampling for a crucial new app.

"If you want to get a lot of downloads, verified, in a short period of time, it's great because it's baked right into the phone," the agency source said. "It's a low threshold, low cost way to gain scale, but if you don't have a follow up strategy for engagement then you'll probably have a lot of waste."

Verizon bought AOL last year and won bidding for Yahoo last month. Marketers expect both companies'

data and technology to help Verizon develop more sophisticated ad products.

Verizon has stoked some user frustration in the past with "bloatware," as have many carriers and phone manufacturers. Bloatware comprises the often irrelevant apps that arrive pre-installed on phones, though they're less often major brands' apps and more often small, proprietary services from the carriers and manufacturers.

Consumers generally dislike all the excess apps stuffing up their phones, according to Azher Ahmed, director of digital at DDB Chicago. "If the app doesn't offer valuable content and experiences, you're going to deal with a lot of frustrated users calling out your bloatware," Mr. Ahmed said.

As text and calls have become free over the years, carriers are getting creative to come up with new revenue opportunities, such as advertising, said Sara Choi, chief operating officer of AirFox, which works with smaller carriers to develop brand partnerships.

"Carriers are just trying to increase profits by any which way they can," Ms. Choi said. "With advertisers and app developers so eager to get in front of audiences, there is this intersection with the carriers, who are monetizing because they have to."

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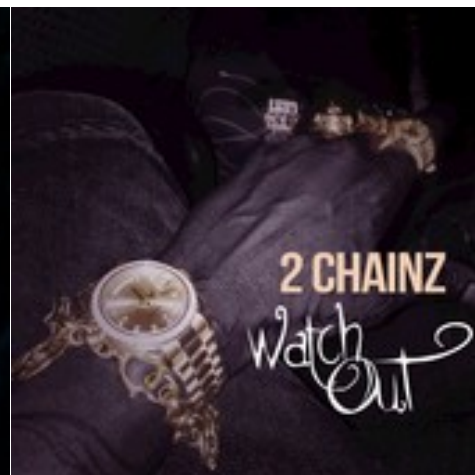
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PREVIOUS STORY
DROID Turbo Receiving Day 1
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NEXT STORY
Any.do 2.0 Brings New
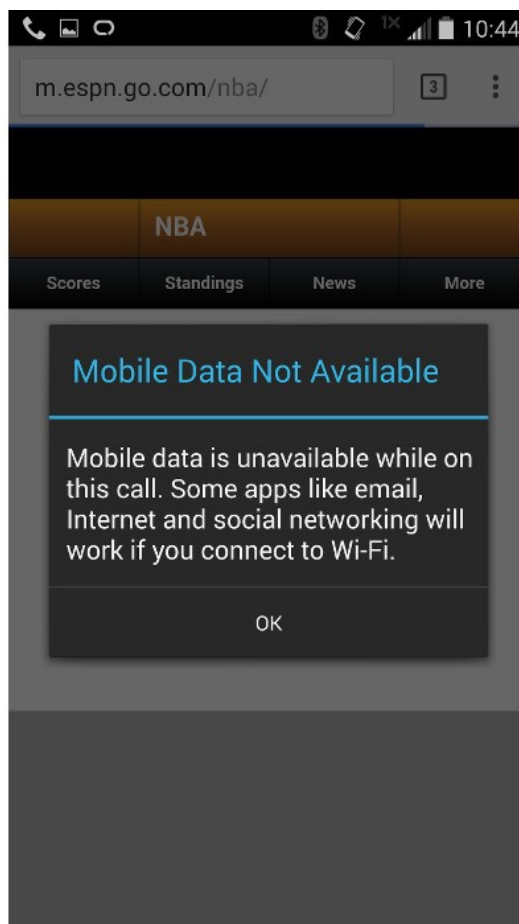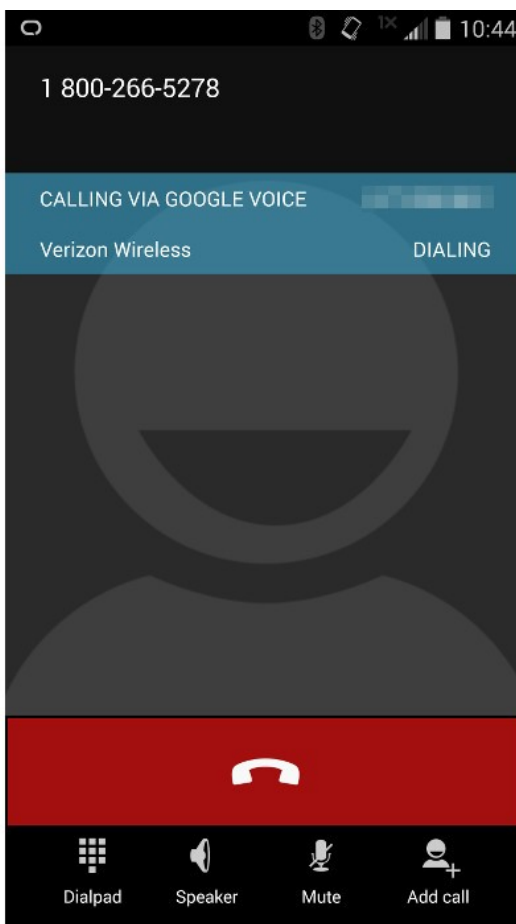Collaboration Features, File
Attachments, Better Reminders

by   Kellex   on Oct 30, 2014   @droid_life

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FYI: DROID Turbo Can't Currently do Simultaneous Voice and Data

As a quick heads up, we wanted to make sure the new **DROID Turbo** owners in the building were aware of a feature that isn't currently available on their device, but will be by the end of the year – simultaneous voice and data. We aren't sure why the device isn't capable of simultaneous voice and data out of the box, but Verizon has confirmed to us that Advanced Calling 1.0 (which is their version of VoLTE) is required for it to work. Verizon has also confirmed to us that Advanced Calling 1.0 will arrive by the end of the year.

Why are we pointing this out? Well, we first reported this news prior to the launch, but now that we have the device in hand, were able to test and confirm that the feature is missing. This is important to know for those of you who place phone calls, but still need a data connection while on a call to access apps, email, or the web.

Again, the feature is coming with Advanced Calling 1.0 before the end of the year. In the mean time, you will have to be on WiFi during calls in order to maintain a data connection with apps or your browser.

PREVIOUS STORY	**NEXT STORY**
DROID Turbo Receiving Day 1 Update to Build 21.21.15	Any.do 2.0 Brings New Collaboration Features, File Attachments, Better Reminders

About Droid Life

We consider ourselves to have the greatest Android community in the world, here at Droid Life. We talk general news, feature apps, review phones, and even teach you how to hack a little. But most importantly, there is no place on the internet that has the reader participation that we do and consider ourselves to be completely community driven. If you were looking for the best place to learn about Android and talk with like-minded folks about all things tech, then Droid Life is for you.

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Upgrade this Device

Manage My IPHONE 6 NON VZW

Manage My Device

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